Miss AMERICA
CHAPTER II
"AN UNWELCOME VISITOR!"
MADELEINE JOYCE, THE FAMED MISS AMERICA, HAS BEEN SENT TO BUENOS AIRES TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO COUNTERSPY OPERATOR TED BANNING, MYSTERIOUSLY VANISHED, AND HIS VITAL EXPOSE LIST OF ESCAPED NAZIS! SUSPECTING THAT HANDSOME PETER CARR, A SELF-STYLED WRITER IS ENMESHED IN THE INTRIGUE, SHE HURRIES TO KEEP A DATE WITH HIM AT THE GRAND PALLAZIO HOTEL...

I'M TO MEET PETER AT THE BAR. I MUSTN'T FAIL IN MY MISSION TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO TED BANNING AND HIS EXPOSE OF ESCAPED NAZIS. WONDER IF PETER'S MY FIRST LEAD?
MADELEINE! YOU LOOK GORGEOUS! THIS CALLS FOR CHAMPAGNE!
YOU OWE ME MONEY! YOU PIG!
WHO IS A PIG? YOU SWINE!
OH!
APOLOGIZE TO THE YOUNG LADY OR YOU'LL FEEL MY FISTS!
I'M ALL RIGHT, PETER. LET IT GO!
SI SI! APOLOGIO!
YOU SURE? WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU LOOK STARTLED!
I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING!
OUT! THIS IS A HIGHLY RESPECTABLE BAR!
THAT FACE IN THE MIRROR!
I PROMISED TO BRING A BIRTHDAY PRESENT TO A WOMAN'S SISTER HERE. BUT I LEFT THE BRACELET IN MY ROOM. I'LL GO UP FOR IT.
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WAIT, MADELEINE! DON'T GO!
I'LL BE DOWN SOON!
THAT FACE! THE SAME MAN I THOUGHT WAS WATCHING ME IN NEW YORK. I COULD SWEAR HE'S THE ONE. HE'S GOING INTO THE LOBBY. I'LL FOLLOW...

THERE HE GOES... THROUGH THE STAIRWAY DOOR. SEEMS LIKE HE IS UP TO SOMETHING! IF HE'S TRAILED ME FROM NEW YORK, I MUST KNOW!

SHE WAS IN THE BAR WHEN I LEFT. ROAD'S APPARENTLY CLEAR, BUT TO BE CERTAIN, STAND GUARD!
TRUST ME, MANUEL!

AS THE MYSTERIOUS MANUEL HURRIES UP THE STEPS, THE INTREPID MADELEINE OPENS THE DOOR...

SO! IT IS YOU! STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

OOPS!

BUT, THE NEXT MOMENT...
YOU LITTLE VIXEN! YOU'RE PLAYING A MAN'S GAME!
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WHILE THE ASSAILANT ASCENDS THE STAIRS HURRIEDLY...

THAT FOOLED HIM. I SAW THE BLACK-JACK COMING, SIDE-STEPPED AND WAS ONLY GRAZED. BUT I HAD TO PRETEND A KNOCK-OUT TO GET HIM AWAY, SO I CAN BECOME **MISS AMERICA!** I'LL UNHOOK THE LINING OF THE WRAP AND...

OUT OF THE WRAP TUMBLES THE COSTUME THAT CHANGES MADELEINE INTO THE FAMED MISS AMERICA, AND THEN...

JUST AS I THOUGHT, HE'S ENTERING MY SUITE OF ROOMS!

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FIND IT YET, MANUEL? I JUST HAD AN ENCOUNTER WITH MADELEINE JOYCE!

YOU DID?

DOES SHE KNOW? WE CAN'T-

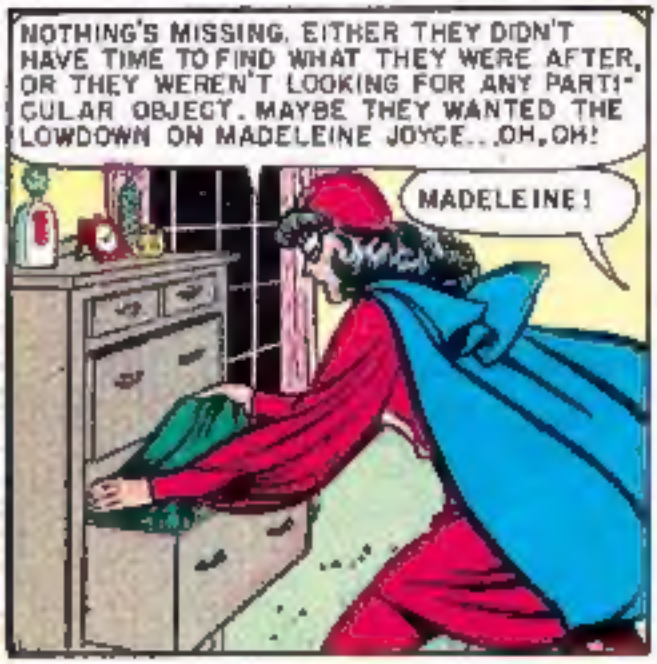
IT'S ALL RIGHT. KEEP SEARCHING. I KNOCKED HER OUT WITH A BLACK-JACK. SHE WON'T RECOVER!

NOT FOR A GOOD WHILE. KEEP SEARCHING... WHAT'S THE MATTER, MANUEL? WHAT DO YOU...?

YOUR GUN, QUICK! BEHIND YOU!

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT TO FIND?

WAKE UP! I WANT TO KNOW WHO SENT YOU HERE - AND WHAT YOU'RE AFTER!
TALK! OR I'LL REPEAT MY PERFORMANCE!
WE WILL! (GULP!)
ONE INSTANT AFTER - AN ARM FLASHES OUT!
MANUEL'S SUDDEN SURPRISED EXPRESSION WARNED ME!
AT THE SAME TIME...
OUT, QUICK!
YOU'RE "OUT" TOO, MISS AMERICA!
SOON AFTER...
OHH! THEY'VE ALL ESCAPED NOW! MY LOSS, EXCEPT THAT I'VE NOW SEEN SOME OF MY ENEMIES. WHAT WERE THEY AFTER HERE? I'LL LOOK!


NOTHING'S MISSING. EITHER THEY DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO FIND WHAT THEY WERE AFTER, OR THEY WEREN'T LOOKING FOR ANY PARTICULAR OBJECT. MAYBE THEY WANTED THE LOWDOWN ON MADELEINE JOYCE...OH, OH!
MADELEINE!

THAT'S PETER. I'VE GOT TO CHANGE BACK TO MADELEINE JOYCE WITHOUT HIM KNOWING!
ARE YOU THERE, MADELEINE?

THAT YOU, PETER? I'LL BE OUT IN A MINUTE!
WHAT HAPPENED HERE? I FOUND THIS DOOR OPEN. THIS ROOM LOOKS LIKE A CYCLONE STRUCK IT! LUCKY THING I GOT RESTLESS AND CAME UP...

WHAT HAPPENED?
I HAD TO CHANGE. MY EVENING DRESS WAS A MESS. ON MY WAY HERE I WAS SUDDENLY STRUCK DOWN. I CAME TO AND MANAGED TO GET HERE, AND FOUND EVERYTHING UPSET. WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS?

I HAVEN'T ANY IDEA! BUT YOU'RE HURT! I'LL CALL A DOCTOR.
I'VE ALREADY DONE THAT. THEY'LL SEND THE HOTEL DOCTOR AS SOON AS HE'S AVAILABLE. MEANWHILE, PETER, I'D LIKE TO REST. PLEASE RUN ALONG NOW.

IF YOU'RE SURE YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO ON TO A NIGHT SPOT OR TWO. BUT IF I THOUGHT YOU NEEDED ME...
OH NO, PLEASE DON'T STAY. I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
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THANK HEAVENS HE'S GONE. I'VE WORK TO DO! AS IF I'D CALL A DOCTOR! THE FIRST THING NOW IS TO SEARCH PETER'S ROOM. I MUST FIND OUT IF HE'S FRIEND OR FOE - I THINK FOE!
MUST TAKE OFF THIS NEGLIGEE!
THOSE "J.R." INITIALS IN HIS GLOVES - AND HE MAY HAVE DATED ME TONIGHT TO KEEP ME AWAY WHILE THOSE GUN MEN RANSACKED MY ROOMS. BESIDES, WHEN I WAS JOSTLED AGAINST PETER, I FELT A REVOLVER IN HIS POCKET!
A SHORT TIME LATER, PETER'S CARRIAGE STOPS IN FRONT OF A SMALL HOTEL....
RIGHT HERE, DRIVER - CASA DeLUTRIO.
THINGS LOOK BUNGLED NOW. I'LL SEE IF ILES HAS NEW PLANS.
IN A FOURTH FLOOR BACK ROOM... ...
THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR THIS FAILURE. THE JOYCE GIRL WAS OUT OF THE WAY!
BUT MISS AMERICA ARRIVING! SHE MUST BE A FRIEND OF THE SENORITA JOYCE - AND SHE IS VERY DANGEROUS!
ARE YOU FRIGHTENED, MANUEL? DO YOU WANT TO FORFEIT YOUR SHARE OF THE FORTUNE?
BUT WHAT OF THE THIRD MAN WHO SURPRISED MISS AMERICA? HE WASN'T SENT BY US!
NO, NO! I'LL DO ANYTHING!
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NO. ANOTHER CLIQUE MUST BE AFTER THE BRACELET. BUT WE MUST GET IT!
YES - THERE IS ANOTHER WAY. OH, COME IN, PETER. LOCK THE DOOR!
FOLLOW THE THRILLING ADVENTURES OF MISS AMERICA! DON'T MISS THE NEXT EXCITING EPISODE IN MARVEL COMICS 78 - NOV.

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OCTOBER
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